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Agilent Ref: 10004415-1
United States Application Serial No. 09/740,660

AMENDMENT

In the claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** An encapsulation vesicle, comprising:
 - (a) a synthetic polymeric matrix having a surface;
 - (b) a surface coating on said matrix, wherein said surface coating comprises a fluorescent molecule that is an organo-metallic complex, ~~wherein said fluorescent molecule is capable of emitting energy;~~ and
 - (c) a protection layer encapsulating said surface coating, wherein said protection layer permits at least partial transmission of fluorescence emission from said fluorescent molecule upon irradiation of said fluorescent molecule, and wherein said protection layer reduces quenching of said fluorescent molecule.
2. **(Previously presented)** An encapsulation vesicle as recited in claim 1, wherein said matrix comprises a sol-gel material.
3. **(Previously presented)** An encapsulation vesicle as recited in claim 1, wherein said matrix comprises silica and synthetic polymer.
4. **(Previously presented)** An encapsulation vesicle as recited in claim 1, wherein said fluorescent molecule is an organo-metallic complex, and wherein the matrix surface is modified with carboxyl groups so that the organo-metallic complex can be covalently attached to the matrix surface.
5. **(Previously presented)** An encapsulation vesicle as recited in claim 1, wherein said fluorescent molecule is an organo-metallic complex, and wherein the matrix surface is modified with amino groups so that the organo-metallic complex can be covalently attached to the matrix surface.